

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, November 18th, 1914

## ARE THE MANUFACTURERS SINCERE?

It has been suggested by some of the readers of The Guide that the recent conference between the Manufacturers and the Farmers was merely an effort on the part of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to hoodwink the Western farmers and induce them to cease their agitation for tariff reduction. We would point out to those who have voiced these suspicions that they are not expressing very much confidence in the ability and integrity of the farmers' representatives who attended the conference. The leading officers of the farmers' organizations from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were present at the conference, and each and every one of the farmers' representatives took part in the discussion. Perhaps it is not the place of The Guide to make this statement; but, for the benefit of our readers, we would point out that the farmers' representatives at the conference were fully equal in ability to the representatives of any other industry or organization in Canada that could be called together. They knew the farmers' case thoroughly, and they presented it at the conference firmly, clearly and frankly tho' courteously. The farmers' representatives were not hoodwinked and, further than that, there were no attempts made by the manufacturers to hoodwink them.

Looking at the matter from the standpoint of the manufacturers alone, they would have nothing to gain in acting in other than good faith with the farmers of the West in this conference. After a full and complete discussion of the situation the manufacturers joined with the farmers in approving of the agreement, which we have published word for word on another page in this issue. This agreement, it will be seen, recognizes the fact that agricultural conditions in Western Canada are unsatisfactory. The various causes which tend towards unprofitable farming are set forth in the agreement, and the manufacturers have joined with the farmers in asking for the appointment of the Board of Inquiry to search into all these matters, including even the sacred institution of the tariff. The chief success of this inquiry depends upon the personnel of the Board appointed. If the members of the board appointed are such as will cause the Western farmers to believe that it is appointed for purely political purposes, or that it is appointed merely to uphold the protective tariff, the bad faith of the Government and the manufacturers would be disclosed at once. In such an event the farmers of Western Canada would not have lost anything, but would attract to their ranks large numbers of recruits who would be incensed at the betrayal. This is another reason why we do not believe that the manufacturers were acting in bad faith when they called the farmers into conference with them.

Again, it must be remembered that a general election will probably be held in the fall of 1915, and it is not in the best interests of either the manufacturers or the Government that they should be parties to any deal for the betrayal of the Western farmers at this particular time. After looking at the matter fairly and squarely we cannot see any ground for the suspicions voiced by

our readers. We believe that the right and proper manner in which to meet the manufacturers at the present time is in the same spirit as the farmers' representatives met them in conference two weeks ago. The Western farmers and the Eastern manufacturers have been at loggerheads for some time, and now that the manufacturers have proposed peaceable relations, and have agreed to assist the farmers to improve their conditions, we think that they should be given full credit for acting in good faith until there are good and sufficient reason for believing otherwise. The farmers have nothing to lose in the matter, because their organization still remains, their political power still remains, their purchasing power still remains and any betrayal by either the Government or the manufacturers would double their membership and intensify the determination to secure a square deal. We think that the members of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Associations and the United Farmers of Alberta need have no apprehension whatever. The officers of their organizations, who are handling this matter, are quite capable of watching their interests.

## THE DEATH OF MR. TREGILLUS

The death of William J. Tregillus, President of the United Farmers of Alberta, is the greatest loss sustained by the organized farmers of Western Canada in the thirteen years of their history. The greatest need of the organization all thru these years has been broadminded, able, sincere, unselfish and energetic men for leaders. Mr. Tregillus was such a man. As a farmer of long experience he knew the handicaps under which farmers in Western Canada were struggling. As a student of economic conditions in Western Canada and also in Europe, he realized clearly that agriculture could not come to its own until the farmers were better organized and conditions greatly improved. For the past five years he had served the United Farmers of Alberta as vice-president and president of the organization, and had given himself unsparingly to the work of raising the standard of agriculture. His high position in the United Farmers of Alberta brought him into the wider field as a member of the Executive of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and in that position he was a powerful advocate of democratic reform in the interests not only of the farmers but Canadian citizens generally. Personally Mr. Tregillus was exceptionally popular. His genial disposition, his tolerance of the opinion of others, and his unassuming modesty won him friends in large numbers. He had enjoyed a wider experience than comes to most men and profited by it. He was a manufacturer upon a large scale, a large farmer, alderman of the city of Calgary and first officer in one of the largest farmers' organizations on the continent. He came to Canada from Great Britain in very modest circumstances, but his growing wealth did not alter his sympathies. He never set much store by money and never measured success from the material standpoint. The vacancy caused by his death will be hard to fill, and

those who have known him best will longest regret his early and sudden call. He was in the prime of life and might naturally have expected many years of further service in the cause nearest to his heart. Tho' he has gone he has left behind him a splendid example to the youth of Western Canada in his honesty of purpose, his sterling integrity, and his high type of Christian manhood.

## THE WAR

The British Parliament is again assembled to provide funds with which to carry on the war and to deal with other problems arising from the conflict. It is announced that parliament will be asked to vote the huge sum of \$1,125,000,000 to pay expenses up to the end of March next, which will bring the British vote for war purposes up to date to \$1,625,000,000, which is nearly \$40 for every man, woman and child in the British Isles. Equal, and probably greater, amounts of money have to be raised by the other powers involved, and the impossibility of expenditures being maintained at this rate for a long period, gives hope that the end of the war is approaching. Meantime Great Britain is proceeding to secure another 1,000,000 recruits, and everything possible, short of conscription, is being done to induce young men to join the colors. In face of this it is somewhat surprising that only a limited number of Canadian troops are being asked for and that recruiting for active service has been stopped in the Dominion. One explanation of this, probably is that it is much more economical to secure a recruit in Great Britain at a shilling a day, than to bring men 4,000 or 5,000 miles and pay them a dollar a day. It may be said that Canada is paying the expenses of the Canadian troops, but, as a matter of fact, Canada is borrowing the money for this purpose in England and a portion of the British vote of \$1,125,000,000 will be used in this way.

The military situation shows little change during the week. The Russian army continues to advance and at last reports was invading German territory on the eastern frontier. Along the line in France and Belgium the fighting has been marked by fierce attacks on strongly entrenched positions, in which both sides have lost thousands of men without making much progress. The naval honors of the week go to the Australian cruiser Sidney, which encountered the German commerce destroyer Emden in the Bay of Bengal and by superior speed and gunnery set her on fire and drove her battered hulk ashore on the Cocos Islands. The Emden had destroyed British and French merchant ships worth over \$10,000,000 before she was finally put out of action, and her destruction has removed one of the few remaining dangers to British shipping on the high seas.

Over thirty years ago Germany placed an embargo upon Danish bacon because of reported hog disease. This closed the best market but it resulted beneficially for the Danes. By necessity they were driven to establish co-operative bacon factories and since that time Danish bacon holds first place in the world's